NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE.

To the Editor of the N. E. Farmer:

SIR—I did not, as I expected, find any comments in your last paper, upon the remarks of the editor of the "Ploughman," in his paper of the 25th ult. on your article relative to the Ayrshire and other foreign breeds of cattle. Perhaps you do not consider his *assertions*—(for they are nothing more)—worth noticing, since the editor is not likely to lead *sensible* farmers astray, by the influence of his talk or his example! With your permission, (and, guided by the consideration that *small shot* is the most appropriate for *small game*,) I will briefly notice one or two of the statements in his lengthy and singularly *forcible* discourse.

In his detraction of "imported stock," he says—"When one [a Durham cow] happens to take a premium at a Cattle Show, it is rather for stately appearance and handsome form, than for quantity or quality of milk that she produces, compared with her keeping." He found it as easy as it was agreeable, to make this assertion, but I think he would find it somewhat difficult to *prove* it. I hazard little in saying that *three-fifths* of the animals that have won premiums in Massachusetts and New York—meaning cattle and sheep—during the last twelve years, were of improved blood, in full or part,—and that the certificates accompanying them, shew that their extra keeping, if any they had, was fully compensated by their extra worth.*

Upon the editor's weak endeavor to ridicule your "logic" in one instance, I beg to make one remark, viz: that such men as Mr Welles, Mr Haggerston, Mr Randall, the Messrs. Lathrop, and hundreds of other intelligent stock-breeders among us, who *have* tried, are at least as competent judges of the comparative worth of the improved foreign breeds, (not meaning the *Durhams alone*,) as the editor's "common" or "*stupid* farmers," who *have not* tried them. [Quere—Since the editor does not publish anything in his columns showing the *worth* of the improved breeds, can his readers justly be reproached for their ignorance and prejudice?]

The stereotyped and senseless cry of "*fancy* stock," (applied to the improved breeds,) and "*fancy* manures," (applied to guano, &c.) which the Ploughman editor is so fond of indulging in, may serve (as it probably is designed) to tickle the ears of that class which he terms "*stupid* farmers," (and who, I hence infer, *must constitute a very important portion of his subscribers,*) and this is about all the effect it *will* have: it will not serve to retard the introduction and extension of valuable improvements in agriculture, any more than the barking of a cur at the moon, serves to hinder her shining.

There are some men, Mr Editor, who seem to *disbelieve* in improvement,—who, despite even the evidence of their senses, question whether such a thing *can* be, in respect to matters which have the *merit* of antiquity. If such are *sincere* in this, they are not unworthy of respect—but we *cannot* respect that other class, who, from base, selfish, and most unworthy motives, would tickle the prejudices of the ignorant or misguided, with sentiments which they (the authors) know are destitute of foundation in truth, and encourage them to believe there is *no* improvement, where there really *is*, and to look upon those as deceivers who advise them to the contrary.

I will only add, Mr Editor, that I think it must be gratifying to you to know that, although the views you expressed relative to the improved breeds of cattle, met with opposition from the *Sage of Framingham*, they are, nevertheless, the views of the most intelligent and skilful stock-breeders in the United States.

Yours, in haste, PEQUOD.

☞Our correspondent would have pleased us better, had he spared the use of a few caustic expressions in his remarks, as, though we happen (from necessity) to differ from the editor of the Ploughman in opinion respecting the merits of the improved breeds of cattle, we are, and desire still to be, on friendly terms with him. *Why* we omitted in our last to notice the Ploughman's comments referred to by our correspondent, (which, by the way, did not, and were not intended, to offend us, personally,) it is not material to state; but we feel quite confident that whatever we *might* have said, would neither have tended to alter neighbor Buckminster's views, or to confirm those of others—so we think our neglect to do what our correspondent expected of us, is a matter of trivial consequence.

As to the views we expressed in the remarks which drew forth the Ploughman's comments, we have only to say that we hold them still—and that by a subsequent conversation with a gentleman who has had much experience with the Ayrshire cattle, we were strengthened in the opinions expressed in the remarks referred to.—ED.

COMMON SALT AS A MANURE.

The following explanation of the conflicting opinions respecting the use of salt as a manure, is from a late lecture by Prof. Johnston, at Perth. We copy from the London Agricul. Gazette:

"Farmer A. had, on the side of a hill facing the sea, applied salt to a considerable extent, in various ways, but never found that it did any good. B. and C. in the inland valley, had also used it, and with very beneficial results. Farmers A. and B. meet in the market-house, and among other subjects, a discussion arises upon the use of common salt as a manure. Farmer A. says, 'I have tried it often, and in different ways, and I never could discover any difference in favor of the crops that had been salted beyond those that had not. I am, therefore, satisfied it is of no use whatever—so that I have made up my mind to use no more of it; it is only so much time and money thrown away; and more than that, it has prevented me using such manures as might have been of some benefit; so that with purchase-money and carriage, labor in applying it, and a partial failure of my crops, that might have been so much better had I used something else, and not depended upon it, I am a considerable loser, and have, therefore, learned a lesson I am likely to remember."

Upon which farmer B. says, "I am rather surprised at your statements regarding common salt, as I have been using it for some time, and have always observed a very decided difference in favor of the crops where I applied it, and on that account I am likely to continue to use it, while I am satisfied of its beneficial results.'

Another farmer from the sea aspect says—'I have used salt a good deal, and can confirm the statement of my friend from the same district, that it is useless as a manure, and have also made up my mind to give it up; experience, and the evidence of my own senses, telling me it is good for nothing."

In this way the discussion goes on—those from the *sea-side* of the hill being *against* salt, and those from the valley beyond, as strenuously in *favor* of it.

The Professor dwelt upon the evil tendency of such an argument upon *effects*, without some little knowledge of the *causes*. He called attention to a table showing the quantity of common salt contained in different crops, and explained the maximum amount that any land was likely to require of it; and that on the sea becoming agitated by the winds the salt which rose in the spray and was carried on to the land, was of considerable quantity; it was found that houses twenty miles inland, had their windows incrusted with it, so that tracts lying within the influence of the sea-breeze, could not be in want of it.

The management of dung-hills then came to be considered, and the generally bad system pursued. He said they were generally placed on the driest part of the steading, and if that was not dry enough, drains or gutters were carefully cut from them to some lower place, and from that to the nearest brook, where the best and richest part of the manure found its way to the nearest river. The Professor here said, 'What would you think if, on your going home at night to tea, you found that all the water had been drawn, and that nothing was left but the leaves? You would be likely to complain; but under such circumstances you would have no more reason to do so, than your farms have to complain: you waste your farm-yard tea, and carry to the land the leaves.'"

What Next?—The French papers state that Professor Debzenne has discovered a method of making over old silk rags into fresh new silk. He dissolves the rags in a solvent which reduces them to a glutinous paste, similar to that found in the abdomen of the silk-worm, and this paste can be drawn out with their fibres, which on being exposed to the air, re-acquire all their original strength.

*The Cultivator (Albany) for February, just come to hand, contains some of the premiums awarded at the late Annual Meeting of the N. Y. State Agricul. Society, among which I notice the following, which I copy for the gratification of the Ploughman cynic, who can put it in his pipe and smoke it:

"BUTTER. The Committee award to Geo. Vail, Esq., of Troy, a silver medal. Mr V.'s cows are DURHAMS Six of them, kept on grass-feed only, produced in thirty days, 262 lbs. 9 oz. of butter, averaging for each cow, 43 lbs. 12 oz. The milk of one of these cows was kept by itself for 30 days, and yielded in that time 52 lbs. 9 oz. of butter."

From the Albany Cultivator.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PEACH TREE.

Through the medium of the Cultivator—which my neighbor Tyson says, "finds its way every where," I wish to make known a new theory with regard to the cause of the premature decay of the peach tree; suggesting a mode for the prevention of a malady that has pervaded our orchards, in many instances, to their annihilation; the evil spreading far and wide, and exhibiting an inveteracy of character, that bids defiance to the thousand-and-one *cures* that have been guarantied to follow the adoption of about as many applications, external and internal, that have been made public. I lay it down as a melancholy fact, then, that the vil, whatever it be, and proceeding from whatever cause, has never yet been fully understood, or met by a proper antidote. And this conclusion will be more readily admitted, than the doctrine, "that the yellows and the worm proceed from the same source, both being *effects* and not the immediate *causes* of disease;" it being now generally conceded, that our trees are as effectually destroyed by the former as the latter; nay, that trees affected by the yellows, will assuredly be destroyed by it, without the intervention of the worm in any of its stages, and at about the same period of time. Here, then, is one step gained. Then comes the idea that the disease is contagious, and to prevent its spreading, it will be necessary to remove the tree the moment its effects are visible; as, also, that a cure may be effected, by careful culture of the soil, or a top-dressing of alkaline substances, to correct the acidity produced by the putricity of the juices of the tree, it being admitted that oxygen is its basis. But although this treatment might be beneficial as a preventive, the expectation of a radical cure would be hopeless.

A residence in this peach-growing district, affords incidents of the greatest variety, and cases for "practice," innumerable; indeed, it might be regarded as analagous to "walking the hospitals," by the medical student; while frequent examination of the orchards of the large peach-growers of Delaware and elsewhere, have abundantly satisfied me, that the evil is progressing, maugre all the care and industry of men, superlatively endowed by knowledge, experience, intelligence and untiring perseverance, "to the contrary notwithstanding." Now these individuals have religiously kept their orchards under constant tillage, for the sole purpose of preserving the health of their trees; convinced, that without such incessant and careful culture, they could not be kept in existence; yet they find the disease is there, and with all their marling, manuring, and plowing three times a year, that it is rapidly progressing; the only question being, how long has the death of the trees been delayed by a process at once so tedious and expensive? So then, at all events, the disease is neither prevented or eradicated by any means now in use—will they, therefore, permit one who is deeply interested in the result, to suggest a mode of treatment, by which it is believed the evil is to be met and overcome.

In late visits to several of the nurseries of peach trees, both in Delaware and New Jersey, I have observed with wonder and astonishment, the gigantic size to which the trees are forced by every means of human ingenuity, many acquiring the height of 8 feet and 3 inches in circumference, from the bud of last autumn. And if to this be added the first year's shoot from the seed—say 6 feet, which is amputated in the spring, we have the enormous growth of 14 feet from the seed, in a year and a half! Now I would ask, does not this extravagant drainage from the root, or whence so ever it may be supposed to proceed, produce a laxity, and a disorganization of the sap-vessels, sufficient to engender disease in the plant, which might then be compared to an overgrown youth? If so, putricity must follow, and then blight, in the shape of *life*—the worm; and the yellows, of necessity and according to the law of nature. And is it not a fact, that the trees now raised by our nurserymen, are twice as large in their growth as formerly; and do not these men pride themselves in the art of producing them of enormous size, purchasers also, generally preferring those that are so? I lately saw trees from the nursery of a person at Moorestown, N. J., measuring more than 8 feet in height, an inch and a half in diameter, with roots sufficient in growth for trees of ten years old, one year only from the bud! Now, of what advantage is all this? None whatever, but a decided injury; productive, it is believed, of the very evil so much complained of. I know that some persons do not covet these large trees, prefering those of a smaller size; but if these are taken from the same nursery, they are, then, those that have sprung from small and weak seed, or been overgrown by larger plants, and are to be rejected, for the same reason that small apples, from among those of larger growth on the same tree, are always inferior, being generally diseased, or immature; so the evil is by no means avoided, or rather it is augmented.

At Manyunk, on the Schuylkill, I saw, sometime since, a small nursery of peach trees, situated on an eminence; the soil thin, and resting on a bed of disintegrated rock, but dry and healthy. Here I found the trees about four feet in height from the bud, close and vigorous in their form, with no rampant leader; the wood, hard, well ripened, and of a deep red color. The owner observed, his trees were sought after at double price, for besides being of the best sorts and true to their kind, they were sure to grow, when transplanted; their roots being small and compactly formed around the body of the tree; besides this, they are free from disease, and would remain so, pointing to the well-ripened wood, and the compact growth of the tree, as indicative of health and vigor of constitution. The following course of treatment is, therefore, with much confidence, recommended for adoption.

First, raise the trees on a healthy and elevated spot, without the aid of manure or extra culture with the view of forcing their growth; shortening all large and vigorous shoots that may be thrown out, even during their first and second season. The operation of budding is too well understood, to require either note or comment. At the time of planting out, let the branches, leaders as well as side shoots, be headed down to within three inches of the body of the tree, removing the tap root, and others of overgrown size; taking care that the southerly aspect, which it bore in the nursery, is given to it in its new location. And from this period, let a right system of pruning be adopted, without fear of evil consequences. No tree bears the knife so well as the peach; and to its regular and systematic use, is a cure of its diseases to be looked for. Let, therefore, every overgrowing branch be shortened, keeping the head of the tree of regular dimensions. It is seldom, indeed, that we see a peach tree that is not top-heavy; yet the order of pruning must be the reverse of that practiced on the apple tree, where it is customary to thin out the middle branches, for in the peach, the bearing wood should be there retained, as also on the sides of the larger branches; by these means, much breakage would be prevented, and thousands of the finest trees be saved from destruction—it is the healthiest trees which fall, crushed by the weight of fruit hanging at the ends of long branches; not those affected by the yellows.

The perpetual cultivation of the peach orchard was resorted to, for the purpose of preventing the evils complained of, but would those who have practiced it the most vigorously say, if in any instance it has been found effectual? To those who still advocate such a course, as necessary to the well-being of the trees, the production of fine fruit, the eradication of the weeds, the destruction of the worm, and the prevention of the yellows, the following facts, fully to be relied upon, speak volumes.

Major Reybold, of Delaware, has an old peach orchard of about three acres, that has not been cultivated for five or six years, having been used as a hospital for sick sheep; yet from thence, for several years past, the finest fruit sent to market has been picked. While speaking of the orchard, the Major said, a few years since I had peaches here, when my friends had none; my family ate $300 worth, after which I sold the remainder for $2,700.

Mr. Caleb Brinton, of Pequea, Lancaster county, Pa, has an orchard, one half of which has been kept under constant culture, the other half being meadow. While searching for worms the past season, full 20 for 1 were found on the cultivated half; the trees sickly and dying of the yellows.

Mr. Mahlon Kirkbride, of Morrisville, Pa., writes, by constant culture and laying lime to the roots of the trees, he has been able to keep the worms at bay; but, spite of all his care and attention, the yellows have carried them all off, and he has not now a peach tree on his whole estate.

But none of these gentlemen have tried the effect of a thorough system of pruning, commencing with trees in health, youth and vigor, and that had not been prematurely forced, in the nursery—a system which is advocated as likely to be far more important than the most careful cultivation, and all other "appliances and means to boot." If at any time, it be thought advisable to refresh the trees, this can be done by top-dressing, far more beneficially than by the plow, the use of which, in the estimation of those who adopt it, "gives fresh vigor to the growth of the tree"—the very thing to be deprecated. The peach orchard then, will become a sheep-walk or a hog-pasture, affording a profit instead of a loss, in seasons when fruit fails: the sheep performing the labor of pruning the lower branches of the trees, on which the fruit is always inferior, and keeping down the weeds far more effectually than can be done by the plow; while the hogs will do all the *cultivation* that is necessary, and clear away the diseased and fallen fruit; all stock being removed before the time of ripening. I lately observed on the farm of Mr. Bryan Jackson, of Newcastle county, Del., that a portion of the peach orchard had been thrown into the hog-pasture; here the trees were most vigorous; and under each, the tramping of the hogs had done, in the way of cultivation, as much as was deemed necessary. The trees are 4 or 5 years old; and I was glad to find that the intelligent owner intends at once to lay down the whole orchard to permanent pasture, for the purpose of grazing sheep and swine. J. C. D.

Salem, New-Jersey, 12th Nov. 1844.

THE DAIRY.—NEW ENGLAND BUTTER MAKING.

We extract from the report and statements presented by the committee of the Essex Agricultural Society, on the Dairy, such portions as will be most interesting to our readers.—*Salem Gaz.*

"The Committee on the Dairy, in presenting their report, would remark that the first prerequisite in making good butter, is to have good cows; and to be sure in this respect, every farmer should test the value of each cow by milking and preserving her milk separately, and noting carefully the quantity required to make a pound of butter. By a very little attention in this way, it may be readily ascertained whether a cow is worth keeping for dairy purposes. Cases have occurred where a cow has been kept for years with several others, and their milk put together: on using it separately, it was found that butter could not be made from it. Thus for the want of attention in this respect, much loss may be sustained. There are undoubtedly many cows kept which add little or nothing to the value of the dairy.

The kind and quantity of salt used, is of much consequence. The Liverpool bag salt should be rejected: it contains impurities, and will not preserve butter. Rock salt, thoroughly pulverized, and three-fourths of an ounce used to a pound of butter, will preserve it well."

Process of Making Butter by those who gained the Society's Premiums.

By Geo. W. Dodge.—The milk is strained into tin pans, where it stands from thirtysix to forty-eight hours, when it is skimmed and the cream put into tin pails, standing on the bottom of a cool cellar. A little salt is added to the cream, which is frequently stirred. We churn twice a week. When the butter comes, the buttermilk is thoroughly worked out, and the butter salted with an ounce to the pound. After twentyfour hours it is again worked and weighed.

By Mrs. Abi Worcester.—The cream was churned twice a week, then the butter was washed in cold water. One ounce of fine butter salt was used to one pound of butter, and well worked in. After it had remained twentyfour hours, it was worked over, and packed down solid in a stone pot, and covered with strong brine.

By Paul Pilsbury.—The milk is strained into tin pans and stands thirtysix hours. The cream is then taken off and put into a tin firkin, and kept until it is ready to be churned, which is twice a week. The butter is well rinsed in cold water, and then salted with one ounce of salt to a pound of butter. In about twentyfour hours it is worked again, and packed down, and kept on the bottom of the cellar, covered with fine salt.

By Allen W. Dodge.—Strain the milk in pans, place them in a cool cellar for the cream to rise; when sufficiently risen, which will be according to the weather, separate the cream from the milk, and the day previous to churning, lower the cream in tin pails or cans, into a well, in order to become cool. By this means, the butter will come of a hard consistency, and no difficulty experienced in working it thoroughly.

Mode of Churning.—Rinse the churn with cold water over night. The time occupied in churning when the cream is cold, is greater than if it were not subjected to the process of cooling, but the quality and condition of the butter amply repay for the time and labor expended upon it. Churn once a week.

The method of freeing the butter from the milk, is by thoroughly working the butter with the hands. Rinsing it with cold water, in the churn, we have seldom practiced, from the conviction that the butter is injured by this process. The day after being worked over, it is put into lumps of one pound each, for market.

For salting, use the ground rock salt, and salt to suit the taste. Add no saltpetre, sugar, or other substances.

By Nath'l Felton.—The milk is strained into tin pans: it stands from 36 to 48 hours in a cool cellar, when the cream is taken off, put into tin pails, and stirred every day.

Churn once a week. During the warmest weather, the cream is placed in the well about 12 hours before churning. After it is churned, the butter-milk is thoroughly worked out and the butter salted with three-quarters of an ounce to the pound. After standing about an hour, it is again worked and weighed, each pound separately.

By Benj. Boynton.—The milk is strained into tin pans. It stands 48 hours in a cool cellar, when the cream is taken off, put into a pot, and stirred once a day.

Churn once a week. After the butter is churned, the butter-milk is turned from it, and water is added twice, and churned, to separate the buttermilk from it. One ounce of salt is used to a pound of butter, which is worked twice after."

IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

A writer in the Boston Cultivator, who is an advocate for the improvement of our *native breeds* of stock, seems to think that among them there are ample materials at home without going abroad after animals of high-sounding names, and prices correspondingly high, to improve the domestic stock of our own country, provided farmers would save the *best* of their animals, instead of those of an *inferior* kind, being tempted to sell the best by the extra price which they obtain from the butchers. He remarks, that it was by pursuing the course he recommends, that the British farmers raised the weight of their beeves from an average (three hundred years ago) of 400 lbs., to their present ponderous weights, reaching in many instances 4,000 lbs.

We do not doubt that there is a great deal of truth and true philosophy in what this Massachusetts farmer says, but still we are far from arriving at the same conclusion that he does—that it is useless for us to avail ourselves of the advantages of the experience of three hundred years breeding in England. The Durham cattle are, doubtless, a made-up, and not an original breed, and yet they have been bred with such consummate skill, as to be able to transmit their own fine qualities to their issue, and to impress the indelible mark of improvement upon whatever other kind their blood may be made to commingle with. The same remark will hold good with regard to the race-horse, the Berkshire hog, and various others of the improved stock of that country. Finding then, this capacity for transmiting their own excellent qualities, in the improved breeds of English stock—finding these desirable points already formed to our hands, it appears to us, that common sagacity and interest combine to point out the propriety of the policy of profiting by the long and dear-bought experience of our trans-atlantic brethren. What it has cost them *centuries* to establish and mould into form, it requires but *a season or two* for us to carry into practical and advantageous operation. Why should we, our children, and grand-children, set ourselves down to a labor of a *century*, when we can accomplish it in *a year or two*—why should we reach the destined point by a *circuitous* route, when we can annihilate space, as it were, by taking a straight cut to the desired goal. To be sure, we would not recommend extravagant expenditures in the procurement of breeding animals; but as the era of high prices has passed, we certainly do think that every farmer should encounter a moderate expense to obtain the proper *basis* for the improvement of his stock, and having once begun the good work, he should make it a point of interest, to save none for breeders but the very best.—*American Farmer.*

☞We rejoice to find in the "*old American Farmer*," a supporter and advocate of our opinions as to the right mode of improving our stock. Its sentiments are ours, to a word.—*N. E. Far.*

Mr Colman's Tour.—We learn from Mr Colman, that he has completed his survey of England, and that he is now busily engaged in preparing the 3d part of his Tour for the press. It will contain a chapter on Guano and other manures, and will be issued in March.—*Alb. Cult.*

To Sweeten Rancid Butter.—An agriculturist in the neighborhood of Brussels, has succeeded in removing the bad smell and disagreeable taste of rancid butter, by mixing and beating with it chloride of lime. The operation is said to consist in beating the butter with a sufficient quantity of water, into which is put 25 to 30 drops of chloride to 2 pounds of butter. After being mixed till all parts are in contact with the water, it is left for an hour or two, then withdrawn and washed anew in fresh water.—*Ib.*

Death of Cattle from Dry Corn-fodder.—James Grant, Esq., of Davenport, Iowa, informs us, that on turning his cattle into the corn-fields, after the corn was gathered last fall, several of them died from constipation. The death of the animals was so sudden, that cows which gave a good mess of milk at night, were dead the next morning: and oxen which worked as well as ever in the morning, died in the afternoon. After having lost several of the herd, among which was a valuable Durham bull, Mr G. saved the remainder by administering heavy doses of Epsom salts.—*Ib.*

Continuation of Milk in Cows.—Extract of a letter from Mr Calvin Butler, Plymouth, Ct., to the editor: "On the subject of keeping cows in milk from year to year, I have had some experience. It is not true that cows kept constantly in milk, will, after a lapse of years, fail of their milk. I kept one in milk for five years, and she increased in her milk every year, and it was almost impossible to dry her when I turned her to beef. I am now milking one for the third year, which neither gains nor fails in her milk, and I presume would not, should she be milked ten years. My cows have been kept from the bull—not spayed."—*Ib.*

Spread of the Potato Malady.—Mr John Townsend, of Zanesville, Ohio, informs us that the disease in potatoes made its appearance in his neighborhood last season. It seemed to be confined to particular varieties.—*Ib.*

The following interesting Essay, is from the pen of one of the most successful *farmers* in New England—a gentleman who besides having great experience in all that concerns *practical* agriculture, combines an extent of scientific knowledge rarely to be met with in any but professional men, and but *rarely* in them—and who, superadds an enthusiasm as praiseworthy as it is beneficial to the great class with whom his interests are identified; as it impels him to reflect the lights of his abundant knowledge over an area as extensive as the Republic of letters itself, for the emanations from his ripe mind are universally copied.—*American Farmer.*

From the Boston Cultivator.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

Messrs. Editors:—Not long since, I heard a person who possessed some knowledge of agricultural chemistry, telling some farmers and others, that a large part of the solid substance of trees, and other vegetable productions, was derived from the air, or rather, that part of the atmosphere called carbonic acid, and that this acid, or gas, was precisely like that which issues from a barrel of fermenting beer or cider. After the man left them, they began to express their doubts about the truth of his theory. Says one, 'tis all nonsense, the visionary dreamings of a book farmer. Yes, says another, if his doctrine is true, what's the use of manure, muck, and composts that he talks so much about. A third one observes, when he can make me believe that the moon is made of green cheese, I shall believe his story about trees being made out of the steam that flies out of the bung-hole of a barrel, when the cider is *working*.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I cannot think any of your readers are so ignorant, but still some of them may not have taken pains to investigate the subject as they ought, either from a belief that it is not necessary for a "common farmer," or that chemistry is too intricate a study for the tiller of the soil to trouble his head about.

To while away an evening, and perhaps, to throw a little light upon the subject, I forward you the following, with the hope it may in some measure stimulate farmers to a more familiar study of agricultural chemistry. Of its importance there can no longer be any doubt: it is a matter about which there "are no two ways."

The atmosphere we breathe and in which plants grow and live, is composed principally of a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen gases, in the proportion very nearly of 21 of the former to 79 of the latter. It also contains as a constituent necessary to the very existence of vegetable life, a small per centage of carbonic acid, on an average of about 1-2500 part. At first view it would seem impossible that this apparently small amount of carbonic acid could supply about one half the solid substance to all plants that annually grow upon the whole face of the globe—but when we recollect that the atmosphere not only entirely surrounds the earth, but extends in every direction about 45 miles—"and if the whole acid were collected in a stratum or bed occupying the lower part of the atmosphere, such a stratum would have a thickness of about thirteen feet;" and this would be spread over the entire waters of the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers, the deserts of sand, the frozen regions of the poles, and in fact over every part and place of the globe that does not yield a vegetable growth, and by the wisdom of the great Contriver, this gas is in innumerable ways, returned to the air as fast as abstracted—here then our wonder ceases. Now, from 40 to 50 per cent by weight, of all trees, plants and vegetables, and in fact all the parts of plants which are cultivated for the food of animals, or of man, consists of carbon, and unquestionably most of this is derived from the air—although there can be no doubt that a small portion is taken in by the roots, mixed with water, and some of the inorganic substances that are in solution—but this was also derived from the air.

The leaves of plants are their lungs, and they have the powers of taking in or absorbing from the air the carbonic acid, and in daylight this gas is decomposed, but much more rapid and energetic in clear sunlight. This gas is composed of two proportions of oxygen and one of carbon, and when decomposed in the leaf, the oxygen is set free and escapes into the air—the carbon is retained, and in obedience to those mysterious laws of chemical combinations, is made to form a moiety of the endless variety of wood, fruit, seeds, &c. &c. that grow upon the earth.

In proof of this, I will offer the following illustration. We know, if we take a given quantity (by weight) of well seasoned wood and distil it in a close vessel, or burn it in heaps covered over so as to exclude the free access of air, wood-charcoal is left behind. When this process is well performed, the charcoal will weigh from 40 to 50 per cent as much as the wood did. The charcoal consists of carbon, with a slight admixture only of earthy and saline matter which remains behind when the coal or carbon is burned in the open air. When this charcoal (or carbon) is burned in the open air, it combines with the oxygen (which is seperated from the nitrogen) of the air to keep up combustion, and the whole of the coal enters into combination with the oxygen and forms carbonic acid—or, in other words, carbonic acid consists of oxygen with a quantity of charcoal *dissolved* in it, and this is precisely the gas that escapes from a barrel of fermenting beer or cider, and in this condition it is *fitted* to be again taken in by the leaves of plants and reconverted into wood, fruit, seeds, &c. &c., and this process has been going on without intermission from the first morn of time down to the present day.

Perhaps it may seem somewhat mysterious to many or all, how this elastic invisible gas can be converted into wood or other solid substance, but it is no more wonderful than many other of its combinations. Every 100 lbs. of pure marble or limestone as taken from the quarry, contains in round numbers 44 lbs. of this very gas; by subjecting the marble to a strong red heat, this gas is driven off, and leaves but 56 lbs. of lime. In this town there is a pearl-ash factory. In every 100 lbs. of pearlash, the manufacturer sends to Boston. there is 32 lbs. of this gas combined with 68 lbs. of caustic pearlash, or to place it in another point of view, in sending 70 lbs. of pearlash, 22 lbs. of it is carbonic acid. The pearlash is taken to the distillery, and a current of carbonic acid is made to pass through it, when another portion of the acid is made to combine, and the 70 lbs. of pearlash come out 92 lbs. of salæratus,—that is, 22 lbs. more of this gas is fixed in the pearlash. At the distilleries this gas is disengaged from the molasses and water while fermenting, preparatory to its being distilled into spirit. Now can any one tell how this 44 lbs. of gas got combined with 56 lbs. of lime, so as to form 100 lbs. of marble? or how 44 lbs. of carbonic acid entered into combination with 48 lbs. of caustic potash to make 92 of salæratus? If a pound of charcoal is burned in a close vessel of oxygen gas sufficient to keep up combustion till the whole of the coal is consumed, there is neither gain nor loss in the weight, the pound of charcoal is *dissolved* in the oxygen, and the gas weighs a pound more than it did before combustion commenced, and what is still more strange the volume or bulk of the gas is not increased by the addition of the pound of charcoal or carbon. The quality or nature of the gas is materially changed—being converted into carbonic acid. Perhaps no one can tell, or perfectly understand the "modus operandi" of the above, but of the truth of the statements we are as confident as we are that two and two make four. It is well known that lichens and mosses will grow and thrive upon the solid rocks. Aaron's rod and some other plants will flourish and gain in weight suspended in the air. The roots of a hyacinth, when the bulb is placed over a glass vase of water, will descend into it, the leaves and flower stem will shoot upwards, and in a few weeks an abundance of beautiful and fragrant flowers are produced; during this time the water is not changed nor any manure added, and perhaps the whole plant when in bloom will weigh twice as much as it did when placed in the vase. Now from what source do these plants draw their growth but from the air? But some may say this is on too small a scale to satisfy them; then we will take it upon a larger one. We know, if we take crop after crop from a given piece of land, without returning any thing in the form of manure, it is yearly impoverished till at last it will scarcely produce any thing. The reason of this is, we carry from the land all that is derived from the air, and all that is drawn from the soil, *the inorganic parts of plants*, which are just as necessary as the carbon; the soil thus becomes destitute of its part of the funds necessary to carry on the co-partnership—but the air is always solvent, ready to meet its engagements at sight, and contribute its full quota in proportion with the other part of the joint concern, and no farther. But if this impoverished soil is sown with the seeds of some kinds of trees and they vegetate and grow, the longer they stand and the larger they grow, the richer and more fertile the soil becomes. If this growth of trees had derived its whole food from the soil, it would have been poorer than when it was planted; but as that is not the fact, we can come to no other conclusion than that the *food* for the carbon of the trees was drawn from the carbonic acid of the air, and the other organic substances from the air—water and the soil.

The inorganic matters that enter into the composition of plants, silex, lime, potash, soda, gypsum, &c. are drawn wholly from the soil, gradually supplied by the mineral constituents of the soil, which generally yield them as fast as required for the growth of forest trees, without the aid or application of them by the hand of man. But not so with our cultivated crops, they are annually carried from the land, and to keep up the fertility of the soil, the inorganic matter must be returned in a more soluble form than they exist in the mineral constituents of soil, which do not decompose fast enough to supply annual crops of corn and grain for a long series of years. Please excuse the length, and repititions in this; my object is to be understood by that class who are not familiar with "agricultural chemistry."

Yours, truly,

LEVI BARTLETT.

Warner, N. H. Dec. 1844.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.—Tuesday Evening, Jan. 28.

Hon. Levi Lincoln in the chair. Subject—*the Corn Crop.*

The Hon. Mr Allen, of Pembroke, remarked that in accordance with the custom pursued by the gentlemen who had preceded him in opening the discussions, he would say a few words upon the importance of the subject which was to occupy their attention this evening.

He said there was a strange prejudice in the minds of many, against the cultivation of Indian corn, and who thought it better to raise some other crop instead of it, which he considered a great mistake.

From more than twenty years' experience, he could attest to the truth of its being a profitable crop. If 60 bushels per acre are obtained, this at 50 cents per bushel, would pay all the expenses of cultivation, and a fair rent for the land—and this quantity might, with good cultivation, be easily obtained; but in Plymouth county, it was not uncommon for farmers to raise from 75 to 80 bushels per acre: in this case, there is a clear gain of 15 to 20 bushels above the expense and rent.

He remarked that there were many within the circle of his agricultural acquaintance, who plant 6, 8 and 10 acres of Indian corn, and get from 10 to 20 bushels per acre only: this, he acknowledged, was a bad business, and would not pay the expenses of cultivation. Poor cultivation costs as much as good cultivation. He would not recommend farmers to plant any corn, unless they could get 30 bushels to the acre, as it would be better to let the land lie dormant, or sow it with some crop and plow in to improve the soil. He would leave land where only 10 bushels could be obtained, and plant where 60 to 75 bushels could be harvested—and this quantity per acre he thought in the power of every farmer to obtain, with good management.

One great advantage in raising this crop was, it is less subject to ravages of insects and disease than any other grain.

On the importance of the crop, he thought it not necessary to enlarge, but would proceed to state briefly his practice in cultivation. When he first began farming, he practiced according to what he had seen in his boyhood, and planted in hills 3 to 3 1-2 feet each way; but he received some intimations from reading, or some other way, that this was not the best mode; and it occurred to his mind that it was an unnatural course. He found upon examination, that to every spear or stalk, were attached 25 to 30 strong lateral roots, and that when there were from three to five stalks in a hill, these roots were completely matted or tangled together in such a manner, as convinced him that it was impossible for them to properly perform their important functions, and that it would be much better that each stalk should stand by itself. By experiments, this mode proved satisfactory, and his practice now was to plant in drills, and he found that from 10 to 15 bushels more could be produced per acre, than when planted in hills. In rich soils, the drills should be only 3 feet apart, and the plants from 9 to 12 inches distant in the drills: if the soil was of a poorer quality, he thought the distance between the drills should be greater, but if the distance was too great, he thought it injurious to the crop.

One of the most important things to be attended to was, a thorough preparation of the soil, and then the after cultivation.

Where all the manure is spread after plowing, he goes over the ground with the cultivator; the ground is then marked out in shallow drills, and care is taken that the corn is not planted too deep, as the practice of planting deep is bad, and will not do as well as when near the surface. After the corn springs up, he takes a small plow and runs it as near as possible to the plants, turning the furrow from them as far into the middle as possible, and returning, plows in the same way near the opposite row, thus forming a ridge in the middle between the drills. He gives his men strict charge not to touch the ridge, nor draw any earth to the corn; but to destroy the weeds. At the second dressing, moves the cultivator through this ridge, and nearly levels it. At the third dressing, the cultivator is again passed through and the ground made as level as a mowing field, and grass seed is sown.

He rarely gives the corn more than three dressings: it is then left undisturbed until harvested. It is not his practice to top his corn or cut the stalks, unless there is a severe drought and his feed short, when they are taken off and fed to his cattle. He thought there was less labor in letting the stalks remain until the crop is harvested, than to cut them as practiced by many farmers; and he would recommend this practice to all.

In several experiments made in Plymouth county, it appeared that corn left in the field with the stalks uncut, will yield from 4 to 6 bushels more to the acre than that which is topped. It is a common idea in some sections, that it is best to cut up the corn when the kernel is in glaze, and stook it; but it had been found by experiment that there was a loss of 5 bushels to the acre, in pursuing this practice.

In answer to inquiries in relation to the proper time for planting, Mr A. replied, about the 10th of May: but there was no rule that could be applicable to the different sections of the State, as the time would differ, according to the location and soil.

Dr. Gardner, of Bristol county, said that in his neighborhood the practice was different from that described by Mr Allen. It was customary to plant in hills 4 feet apart each way. He thought it was preferable to plant more seeds than Mr A. mentioned, so that in case of accident, there should not be a deficiency of plants.

Many in Bristol county say that corn is an unprofitable crop, yet continue to raise it. He stated that Bristol raises more corn, in proportion to its inhabitants, than Worcester county. Worcester co. raises 5 times as much hay as Bristol, and only twice as much corn. The average crop was not more than 30 bushels to the acre, and this was thought a good one. He had raised 141 bushels on three acres, which was considered more than a common crop.

Mr Hardy, of Waltham, thought corn to be about as profitable as any other crop. He had been most successful when he planted in hills 4 feet apart, and only 3 stalks in a hill. He had raised 61 bushels to the acre. If the land was very poor, more stalks might be permitted to stand in the hill. Some object to the corn crop, and affirm that it cannot be raised less than at a cost of $1 per bushel; but he thought it could be raised for less than 75 cents.

He remarked, that poor soil, well managed, was the *best* for corn. He could tell a large story of a heavy crop of corn grown by Mr Whipple, of Lowell, on a poor sandy plain, without any other manure than 40 loads of meadow mud to the acre. The land, which was not worth $5 an acre, was plowed 12 inches deep; the mud plowed in, and from 65 to 70 bushels per acre were obtained. The mud was put on in a green state, without any admixture of any other manure. He said the best crop of corn in Middlesex county, was raised on poor land, where grass and potatoes would not pay the expense of cultivation.

In relation to corn stover, he did not agree with Mr Allen: he cuts his stalks and cures them when green; dries them under cover on poles, and they are then as good as herds-grass. When cured in this way, he thought they were worth twice as much as when left until the corn is ripe. He valued the stover on good corn at $10 per acre. If a farmer could raise 65 bushels to the acre and $10 worth of stover, he got well paid. The cost of cultivating Mr Whipple's corn was about $27 per acre. Mr H. said he always composted the mud he used, and if possible, dug it a year beforehand. It was important to plow deep.

In answer to an inquiry by Mr B. V. French, whether he put his manure on the sod and plowed, or manured in the hill, Mr H. said he manured in the hill, which he thought was better than to spread and plow in.

Rev. Mr Sanger was in favor of deep plowing; thought it beneficial in the culture of corn. He had a field of light dry soil, which was plowed very deep, and during the extreme dry weather last season, looked remarkably flourishing and green. He thought the value of the stover sufficient to pay all the labor. He was in favor of corn as a fodder: had as much fodder on 1-8 of an acre, for his cows, as on 4 or 5 acres of pasture.

Dr. Gardner remarked that he read in a western paper, that corn was cultivated in some places for the renovation of worn-out lands, by plowing under two or three successive crops.

He was glad to learn that in Middlesex county a good crop could be raised on poor soil: in Bristol county they were not so successful: they had a plenty of poor land, but could not get a good crop on it, and they thought it good policy to plant their best land to corn.

Mr Kimball, of Needham, said he would try the experiment of planting corn on poor sandy land, with meadow-mud, and if he could succeed in raising 60 bushels to the acre, his land would rise rapidly, in his estimation, as such land he considered of little value. If Mr Hardy was correct, it was very important information. He had a high opinion of the value of mud: had raised a fine crop of rye on a field where meadow mud alone had been spread; better than on an adjoining field, of richer quality, with a dressing of manure.

Mr Hardy was glad the gentleman would try the experiment: advised him to spread the mud and plow it 12 inches under the sand.

Mr Fay, of Southboro', said it would be impossible to have one rule apply indiscriminately to all locations and soils, in relation to the cultivation of corn; but if good manure was used, and the ground well plowed and cultivated, if not wet, a good crop might be raised. He thought it best to tell the whole story about the mud—whether it had lain in the yard and become saturated with urine, or mixed with other substances.

(Continued on next page.)

Mr Rufus Beckwith, of Monroe co., N. Y., raised he last year 126 bushels of corn to the acre.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1845.

DISCUSSION ON INDIAN CORN.

[*Continued from the preceding page.*]

In reference to Mr Whipple's field which Mr Hardy had spoken of, Mr Fay said he had seen it, and walked through it in June. Mr Whipple is a powder manufacturer—and Mr F. understood that refuse saltpetre, charcoal, &c. from the factory, were mixed with the mud. This, he thought, altered the case essentially.

Mr Fay thought highly of the corn crop, and would recommend to all farmers to raise their own bread-stuff. He plows in green manure, spreads compost after plowing, harrows, then marks out the rows for corn with two cultivator teeth. He plants his rows three feet apart, and the hills from 15 to 24 inches, and puts from 5 to 10 kernels in a hill, and thins out to 3 stalks. Plants in shallow drills, and covers one inch deep: thinks it a bad practice to cover deep. Had tried the Phinney or Dutton, Parker and Brown corn, but does not like either of these varieties so well as the Hartwell corn, of which he exhibited some fine samples. It was early and prolific: he had obtained 60 bushels to the acre: thought the stover from it better than from the other varieties: it was nearly three weeks earlier, and he had come to the conclusion to use no other. He had topped his corn and cut it up by the root, but preferred the former mode, and his neighbors did the same. He recommended that the distance between the rows that run North and South, should be one foot wider than those that run East and West, so as to let in the light.

Mr Hardy remarked that it had not been intimated to him before that Mr Whipple had *composted* his mud. He had been informed by him that it was "clear mud."

Mr Fay repeated that Mr Whipple informed *him* that saltpetre was mixed with the mud.

Capt. Jonas Holt, of Andover, said he could not adopt the mode of planting described by Mr Allen, as his ground was cold, very rough, and rocky; that he was obliged to manure in the hill; does not like the practice, but could not do otherwise. He raises the Brown corn, and obtains from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre. He showed a fine specimen of this variety. In selecting seed for planting, he did not follow the practice of saving the largest and fairest ears at husking, but goes through his corn as soon as the husks begin to turn, and selects the ears that have already become white. By this method he thinks his corn is earlier than when saved in the former manner.

He has subdued within the last eight years, 15 acres of rough, bushy and rocky land, which was so tough that it required 12 oxen to plow it. He had tried peat on poor, sandy land, and plowed deep, and got nothing; while land on the opposite side of the road, on soil the same, manured with compost, a good crop was obtained.

He tops his corn, and is very particular in curing the stover. As soon as they get dry enough, packs them down with straw, using 1-2 bushel of salt to 1 1-2 ton of stalks. Has sometimes cut up his corn and stooked it, but thinks there is more labor in feeding out, where this course is pursued.

Mr Johnson, of Framingham, said he liked the corn crop, although many farmers cry out against it. He had no large stories to tell, but had never failed for the last 20 years, to get a good crop—never less than 50 bushels to the acre, and has raised 65; and he regarded it as a valuable crop. The preparation of the soil and planting was done at a very busy season, but the after cultivation could be attended to at a more leisure one. It leaves the land in good condition for other crops.

He plows in the fall: light sandy soil, very deep; heavy soils, more shallow. After the ground is dry in spring, goes over with the harrow, spreads his compost, and then plows light, and for the last few years has applied the roller: strikes out drills with cultivator teeth; hills three feet each way: uses no manure in the hill; and in hoeing and weeding, leaves the land level.

In relation to stover, tops the corn, and feeds out green to his cattle. The Brown corn has not succeeded well with him: plants a variety a little later. Plants from 3d to 15th of May—never later. He selects his seed corn at husking, and plants the whole, including tips and butts, which he finds does better than to discard the tips, as was his former practice. It was his custom to break the ear in the middle and plant the butt part; but by mistake, the young man, in his absence, planted the corn from the top part in a section of the field. He felt bad about it, but finished the field with the butts. The result was, when the corn was harvested, where the tips were planted the corn was best.

The Hon. B. V. French remarked, that there were many experiments made in agriculture, but most we knew in relation to this matter was by accident: there was nothing certain in these experiments. The story about the tops and butt ends of corn, reminded him of what was said to be the experience of a neighbor of his, who, finding a variety of corn which was well filled out on the tips, planted his whole field with corn taken from the end of the cob. The result was, that all the corn he raised, had but a single kernel on the tip of the ear!

Mr French spoke of his experience with mud. He manured a lot highly with compost, and sowed it with oats and herdsgrass. He obtained an abundance of straw, but no grain. The next year, there was no grass, but a plenty of sorrel. In two years he had heavy crops of grass. He could not account for the loss of his crops and the appearance of the sorrel, and stated the case to Dr Jackson, who told him he must have used unfermented mud. Mr French thought not; but upon further inquiry, found that the mud had been applied in an unfermented state, and that was the cause of the appearance of the sorrel. The mud did not fertilize the land until it had undergone fermentation. He thinks much of subsoiling: had subsoiled 20 acres, and the effects were highly favorable.

Mr Allen said he had some experience with the subsoil plow, and thought it a valuable implement, and hoped farmers would try it. In reference to the diversity of opinion in curing corn-fodder, he hoped farmers would make fair experiments as to cutting stalks and leaving them on till harvest; and if the result was not in favor of the latter mode, he was mistaken. He had decided objections to manuring in the hill, except in case of a very cold soil. If he were about trying to raise the greatest possible crop, he should use no manure in the year of planting. He thought he had raised the greatest crop when his land was managed in this way.

Mr Shepard, of Framingham, said he had used plaster on light sandy soils, with great success. He spread his manure and gave two light dressings of plaster at weeding. He never had finer corn than he has had with the use of plaster for two years past. It gives the corn a peculiarly luxuriant appearance, and even through the extraordinary drought of last season, its color was of a deep green. He also used plaster on his potatoes with good results.

Mr Brackett, of Hampshire, said the farmers in his neighborhood were in favor of manuring in the hill; they have heretofore cut up their corn when it had become glazed, and stooked it, but many farmers were returning to the old practice of topping. They also use plaster both at the time of planting and during the growth of the crop.

Capt. Geo. Randall, of New Bedford, said, in regard to deep plowing, he was highly in favor of it, and being a sailor, whatever he did, he generally did *strong*. He had a piece of land situated on the top of a hill, and rather dry, which he wished to convert into a vegetable garden. He procured the town plow, a very stout implement, used for plowing up the highways, and with four yoke of oxen, he went to work, and with his own weight on the beam, [the Capt. does not weigh less than 250,] turned over the sod to the depth of 18 to 20 inches. He then manured it, and plowed in the manure 7 inches, and when all his neighbors' gardens were burnt up with the drought of the last season, every thing in his was green and luxuriant. He had a field of corn in 1838, so nipped by a severe frost on the 21st of June, that he was advised to plant it over again. He, however, with shears, cut the corn close to the ground, and had a fine crop of 62 bushels to the acre.

Subject for discussion at next meeting—The Culture of Fruits and Fruit Trees.

☞ We acknowledge the receipt of the Transactions of the Worcester Co. Agricultural Society, for the year 1844, containing Mr Sleeper's address, and other interesting matter.

Also, the proceedings of the National Convention of Farmers and Gardeners, and Friends of Agriculture, held at the American Institute, in the Park, (city of New York,) on the 11th and 12th of October, 1844, and during the annual Fair of the Institute.

New, Rich and Important!—There were two facts (?) elicited at the discussion reported in the preceding columns, which we think are alike new and important to farmers generally, viz: that "*poor* land is the *best* for corn"—and that by a liberal application of "*meadow mud*" alone, 60 bushels and upwards per acre, might be obtained!

(P. S.—It was afterwards found that there should be a *liberal mixture of saltpetre, charcoal, &c. with* the mud, to produce the desirable effect just named! "We live in a remarkable age!")

Yellow Locust.—If you have but little fencing timber fit for posts on your farm, sow a few pounds of yellow locust seed, and when the plants are two years old they may be transplanted. In twelve years from the time the seed is sown, you may begin to cut them for posts. Say you, twelve years is a long time to wait; but you should recollect that every farmer has some spot where they might be grown, which is now unproductive; and that as fencing is a dear article, every farmer should endeavor to grow his own timber.—*Amer. Far.*

To stop the scours in sheep, (says a correspondent of the Albany Cultivator,) give them a small quantity of salt pork: if administered soon after they are attacked, two or three doses will generally effect a cure. I have given it to neat cattle for the same complaint, and with good effect.

Putting hot water, say a couple of gallons, into the churn, and shaking it about a while before using it, will, it is said, make the butter "come" in a shorter time.—*Cult.*

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting will be held on SATURDAY, February 8th, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the Committee Room, Tremont Temple.

Feb. 4, 1845. EBENEZER WIGHT, *Rec. Sec.*

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Feb. 2.

Feb. 1845.	7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday, 27	28	36	35	N. E.
Tuesday, 28	25	45	30	N. E.
Wednesday, 29	35	40	33	N. W.
Thursday, 30	24	29	21	N. W.
Friday, 31	2	12	9	N. W.
Saturday, 1	0	5	6	N. W.
Sunday, 2	5*	4	6	N. W.

*Below.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY, Feb. 3, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 400 Beef Cattle, (including 50 unsold last week,) 1400 Sheep and 6 Swine; 60 Beef Cattle unsold. The Swine were reported last week.

PRICES.—*Beef Cattle*.—A small advance was effected, and we quote to correspond, viz: a few Extra $5,25 a 5,50. First quality, $5 a 5,25. Second quality, $4,50 a 4,75. Third quality, $4 a 4,50.

Sheep.—Common sheep from $1,75 to 2,25. Weathers from $2,25 to 4.

Swine.—No lots sold At retail 4 and 5.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 00 a 2 25 per bushel. Red Top 60 to 70 cents. Clover—Northern, 10 to 11c.—Southern, 8 a 9 c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 00 a 2 25 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. During the past week a fair steady demand has been experienced, and cargo sales have been made of yellow flat Corn.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 00—Southern, round yellow, 52 a 53—Southern flat yellow, 50 a 51—do. do. white 00 a 48—do New Orleans, 45 a 50—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 78 a 75—do. Southern, 70 a 72—Oats, Southern, 32 a 33—Northern do. 34 to 35—Beans, per bushel 1 50 a 1 75—Shorts, per double bush. 27 a 30—Bran, 25 a 27.

FLOUR. The market has been in an active state through the week, and the dealers have purchased freely at our last quotations.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $4 81 a 4 87—do. wharf, $4 62 a 4 75—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $0 00 a 4 67—Fredericksburg, low P'd new 00 00 a 4 67—Alexandria, wharf, 0 00 a 4 67—Georgetown, $4 75 a 4 87—Extra do. 5 00 a 5 12—Richmond Canal, $4 75 a 0 00—do. City, $5 50 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $5 00 a 5 50—do. Country $4 62 a 4 75—Genesee, common, cash, $5 00 a 5 12—do fancy brands $5 18 a 5 37—Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $4 62 a 4 75. Rye, $0 00 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 62 a 0 00.

PROVISIONS. The business in barrelling Provisions has not yet opened with much animation, and during the past week the sales have been to a limited extent.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 50 a 9 00—Navy—$7 50 a 8 00.—No. 1, $6 75 a 7 00—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo bbl. $11 50 a 12 00—do Clear $10 00 a 11 00 do. Mess, $9 50 a 10 00—do Prime $7 50 a 8 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00—Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, shipping, 10 a 13—do store, uninspected, 11 a 12—do dairy, 14 cts. a 17—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6½ a 7—do South and Western, 6¼ a 6½—Hams, Boston, 7 a 00—Southern and Western, 6 a 6½—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 4¼ a 5½—do new milk, 6 a 7.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

There has been a good demand for both fleece and pulled, and the sales of the week exceed 150,000 lbs.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 45 a 50 c.—American full blood, do 40 a 42—Do. 3-4 do 37 a 38—Do. 1-2 do 35 a 36—1-4 and common do 32 a 35—Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 22—Do. unwashed, 10 a 15—Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 14—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 38 a 40—No. 1 do. do. do. 33 a 35—No. 2 do do do 23 a 30—No. 3 do do do 14 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

Nothing doing since our last report, and the market remains nominally the same.

1st sort Mass. 1843, lb. 13 a 14; 2d do 0 a 0.

HAY, 16 to 18 per ton—Eastern Screwed $12 to 13,

EGGS. 15 to 20.

A very valuable Farm at Public Auction.

Will be sold at Public Auction, at 12 o'clock, noon, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th of March, on the premises,

The valuable Farm, lately owned and occupied by Peter Daniels, deceased, situated in the southwestern part of Franklin, Mass., about two miles from Franklin meeting house, and five or six miles from Woonsocket Falls, together with the stock and farming utensils.

The farm contains about 190 acres of good land, divided into lots of suitable size, with the usual proportion of pasture, mowing and tillage, and fenced with good substantial stone walls.

There are about 30 acres of woodland on the place, and 12 or 15 acres of productive cranberry meadow.

The buildings, which are ample and convenient and in perfect repair, consist of one large two story dwelling house, with an ell; a one story house; two large barns, with sheds attached; a horse barn; carriage house; wagon house; corn crib and other out buildings.

A stage running between Boston and Woonsocket, passes the house daily, and the contemplated railroad between those places will probably pass within a short distance of the place.

Any person wishing to purchase can examine the premises at any time previous to the sale, and refer for further particulars to the occupants of the place, to Willis Fisher, Esq. or Capt. Ichabod Dean, of Franklin, to Mr. David A. Fisher, of Wrentham, or to GEO. P. DANIELS,

Feb. 4, 1845. 2 South Main st. Providence.

GRAIN AND MEAL BAGS.

3,000 Grain Bags, holding two bushels, and very strongly made, for sale cheap, by CHARLES R. BOND & CO.

Feb. 4, 1845. 45 Water, corner of Congress sts.

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The subsoil Plow is unquestionably the most important agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skilful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say:—"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show*, are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor and fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth"

The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

Dec. 18, 1844. tf.

BEMENT'S AMERICAN POULTERERS' COMPANION.

The American Poulterer's Companion—A Practical Treatise on the Breeding, Rearing, Fattening and General Management of the various species of Domestic Poultry, with Illustrations and Portraits of Fowls taken from life. By C. N. Bement, Albany. Published by Saxton & Miles, New York. For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO.—Price $1 25.

BACK VOLUMES OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. have received a few sets of the 3 back volumes of the American Agriculturist, elegantly bound in cloth. Price $3 75 per sett.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

NEW ENGLAND

Agricultural Warehouse

AND

SEED STORE.

51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD, GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best, and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz:—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do, 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do. 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do., 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz Scythe Stones, 3000 do Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do Common do., 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS.

The subscribers are now receiving their fall supply of Garden, Field and Grass Seeds, and would respectfully recommend to their customers to send in their orders as early as possible to secure a supply from their choicest lots. Their stock of seeds for this season will be very full and complete, and most of the varieties being raised under their own inspection they can confidently recommend them as being fresh and genuine. Among them are Long Blood, Early Turnip and Sugar Beets; Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, Orange Carrot, Radish. Cucumber and Cabbage of sorts. Also, Peas, Beans and Squashes, which together with a large supply of most kinds of seed desirable for the field or garden, comprise the most complete and extensive assortment of seeds to be found at any similar establishment in the country. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Oct. 2.

MILK ESTABLISHMENT FOR SALE.

The subscriber being about to relinquish the milk business, offers for sale, his entire milk establishment, consisting of 23 Cows, 1 Milk Cart and Wagon, and an excellent run of custom. JOHN PARKINSON,

Oct. 16, 1844. Walnut Street, Roxbury.

AFRICAN GUANO.

The cargo of the brig Samos, just arrived direct from Africa. This Guano has been analyzed by J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., and pronounced by him as fully equal to the best cargoes received in the London or Liverpool markets. Purchasers can depend on this as being the *genuine* article. For sale, in quantities to suit, by

CHARLES HOFFMAN, Salem.
VERNON BROWN, 5 Merchants' Exchange.
J. BRECK & CO. 51 & 52 N. Market St., up stairs.

Sept. 17 3m.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JO. BRECK & CO.

CAST IRON SLED SHOES

For double and single Runners, of all sizes, also, Barn Door Rollers, from 3 to 10 inches, for sliding doors, for sale by HENRY RICHARDS,

Dec. 7, 1844. No. 109, State street.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Thin Shoes—Consumption.—The Philadelphia Inquirer has some excellent remarks on the deplorable error on the part of American females, in wearing thin shoes and stockings in wet and wintry weather. The editor remarks with much truth:

"The fatal mistake is in many instances inculcated in the early childhood of the victims, and by the victims themselves. We think we see some of our fair readers open their eyes with surprise, at this declaration; and yet we fear that they would not find themselves guiltless, on making the necessary investigation. The desire with females generally is, to exhibit a small foot prettily, and to make it appear in as neat and elegant a casing as possible. Thus light and thin shoes have become fashionable and popular, and a prejudice against strong, stout, and thick shoes has been inculcated. Let any gentleman, the head of the family, who is aware of the importance to health of dry feet, and who for years past has been in the habit of acting accordingly, take the trouble of hunting up the boots and shoes of his wife and daughters, for the purpose of making a comparison with his own boots and shoes. Our word for it, that in nine cases out of ten, he will be convinced that he has all along closed his eyes to the true cause of colds, coughs, pleurisies and other complaints, which have stolen the bloom from the cheeks, the elasticity from the forms, and the roundness from the limbs of beings as dear to him as life itself.

We have more than once said that self-murder may be committed as well by carelessness, neglect, and wanton exposure of the person to inclement weather, as by poison or poignard. Ladies will admit this themselves, when conversing calmly and dispassionately upon the subject. And yet, turn to their feet, and you will find that while they are disclaiming against the system, they also, in too many cases, practice it.

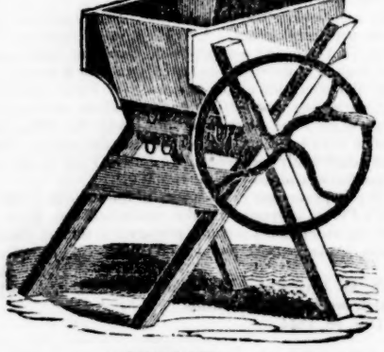
Consumption, in the majority of cases, is produced by a slight cold. The slight cold is caused by unnecessary exposure at balls, parties, in concert rooms, &c., or by wearing thin and improper boots and shoes. Thousands of victims perish annually in this country by the practice just named. Hundreds at this moment are coughing themselves to the grave. Not a week, not a day goes by, that a death is not chronicled in some of the public prints, produced by consumption. Friends, relatives, neighbors, are continually summoned to an untimely grave by this disease, which is indeed terrible in its character and in its consequences. Nevertheless, (and strange it should be so,) thin shoes are worn as recklessly as ever, and thus hundreds of our fair countrywomen expose themselves to a dangerous and deadly malady, knowing at the time that they are pursuing the very course calculated to rob them of what is far more important than an empty vanity of display, growing out of an elegant shoe, a tight fit, or a pretty foot. They sacrifice for an empty bubble, not only bloom and beauty, but health and life."

Fashion.—Custom is the law of one description of fools, and fashion of another. Of the two, fashion imposes the heaviest burden; for she cheats her votaries of their time, their fortune, and their comforts, and repays them only with the celebrity of being ridiculed—a very paradoxical mode of remuneration, *yet always most thankfully received!* Fashion is the veriest goddess of semblance and of shade: to *be* happy, is of far less consequence to her worshippers, than to *appear* so: even pleasure itself they sacrifice to parade, and enjoyment to ostentation. Her smile has given wit to dullness, and grace to deformity, and has brought every ing into vogue, by turns, but *virtue*.

The minor miseries superinduced by fashion, that queen of fools, and the quantum of uneasiness forced upon us by her absurdities, are no small drawback from the sum total of that happiness allotted to the little life of man. It is within the recollection of very many of my readers, that no gentleman or lady could either pay or receive a visit, or go out to a dinner, or appear at a public party, without first submitting to have seven or eight pounds of fat and flour worked into their hair, by the hands of that very important personage, the *frizeur*. Our fair countrywomen laugh at the Chinese ladies, for depriving themselves of the use of their feet by tight shoes and bandages; while they *themselves*, by the more destructive and ridiculous fashion of *tight-lacing*, destroy functions of the body far more important, not only to themselves but to their offspring. If to be *admired* is the motive for such a custom, it is a most paradoxical mode of pursuing this end—for that which is destructive of health, must be still more destructive of beauty—that beauty, in a vain effort to preserve which, the victims of this fashion have devoted themselves to a joyless youth and a premature decrepitude, and probably an early death.—*Author of 'Lacon.'*

Tender-hearted.—"Poor things, how cold they must be, to have their coats taken off. Don't it hurt them?" said a tender-hearted damsel to a man skinning eels. "Not a bit, marm—they're used to it; and then you see we warm 'em directly in fat, and that heals up their hurts. Pass 'em along, Bill."

We once heard of a young lady who said there were but two things which, in looking back over her past life, she regretted; and one of these was, that *she did n't eat more cake when her sister Fanny was married!*"



WILLIS'S

Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and tearing the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard or rocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 SCHOOL STREET.